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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/600,837	08/05/2002	John Edward Andrew Shaw	9052 61	2062
20792	7590	06/02/2005	EXAMINER	
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH, NC 27627			SELLS, JAMES D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	
DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/600,837

Applicant(s)

SHAW ET AL.

Examiner

James Sells

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 and 24 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-13, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bauer et al (US Patent 3,811,474).

Bauer discloses a fluidic element construction. As shown in the figures, the element comprises a plurality of laminations or substrates 31-54 bonded together. These laminations are shown with a plurality of straightedge cutout regions including manifold 68, nozzles 71-73 and passages 74-76. At col. 3, lines 54-57, Bauer discloses that the individual laminations or substrates may be etched, cut or sliced to form the cutout regions. At col. 8, lines 14-23, Bauer discloses that the circuit module may have dimensions of 2-3 inches or less.

Applicant is reminded that the method of making is not germane to the patentability of article claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 14-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer et al as described above in paragraph 2 in view of Bonde et al (US Patent 5,099,311).

Bonde discloses a microchannel assembly. As shown in Fig. 1, a prior art assembly comprises top silicon layer 10, middle glass layer 12 and plastic layer 14.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the various materials taught by Bonde in the fluidic element disclosed by Bauer based upon desired properties of these materials. Further, it is the examiner's position that without the disclosure of unexpected results, the sizes, shapes and materials claimed by the applicant are within the purview of one having ordinary skill in the art and would have been obvious to employ in the fluidic element disclosed by Bauer based upon desired physical properties of the articles being manufactured.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-10 are allowed.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 1, in a method of connecting channels, the prior art does not teach or make obvious the concept of the substrates being bonded before the at least one cut is formed therein in the manner claimed by the applicant.

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Response to Arguments


7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 and 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Accordingly, this action is made non-final.

Telephone/Fax

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sells whose telephone number is (571) 272-1237. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached at (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


**JAMES SELLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECH. CENTER 1700**